

**For U.S. forces
serving abroad**

Stripes™



A news digest from The Stars and Stripes

Saturday, April 4, 1998

Eight pages

Ex-CIA worker charged with spying

WASHINGTON (AP) — A disgruntled spy fired by the CIA was charged with espionage and extortion Friday, accused of giving highly sensitive information to two foreign governments after the United States refused to pay him more than a half-million dollars. He could face the death penalty if convicted.

Douglas Fred Groat was accused of having told the governments last spring that U.S. intelligence had broken their secret codes. In 1996, months before he was fired, he had threatened to tell unspecified foreigners what he knew unless he was given the money, according to a federal indictment unsealed Friday.

Citing national security concerns, prosecutors and CIA officials declined to name the two governments involved.

Groat is the third current or former CIA employee to be arrested for espionage in the past four years, and the indictment

sent shockwaves through the agency. Director George Tenet felt concerned enough about the impact on morale to speak to agency employees, telling them, "While the allegations in the case are very serious, I want you to know that this is not a reflection on you."

Tenet said in a separate statement Friday that Groat last had access to classified information in 1993. The director referred to Groat's "attempted" extortion, and officials familiar with the investigation said the CIA never paid any of the money.

"The full extent of any damage to U.S. national security has yet to be determined," Tenet said. The arrest, he said, "demonstrates that the U.S. government will not rest in our efforts against those who would commit espionage against the United States nor will we be intimidated by threats of blackmail."

The code-breaking information alleged to have been disclosed by Groat represents "probably the single most important thing that our intelligence agencies do," said Steve Aftergood of the Federation of American Scientists, a group that follows the CIA. "Compromising that activity to foreign governments would mean a grievous blow to U.S. intelligence. This is not just a document or a piece of information, this is two entire intelligence enterprises that have been shut down."

"This case involves highly sensitive classified information that could have a serious impact on the national security of the United States," U.S. Attorney Wilma Lewis said in a statement.



Groat

Dow rises above 9,000, then falls

NEW YORK (AP) — The Dow Jones industrial average Friday moved above 9,000 for the first time, but fell just short of the milestone at the close.

It rose as high as 9,030.49 in the morning, five months after its biggest one-day drop had many thinking the bull market was dying. The Dow finished with a 3.23-point drop at 8,983.41.

Trading was heavy and broad market indexes rose to new highs, with the Nasdaq Stock Market and the Standard & Poor's 500 list adding to Thursday's record finishes.

As the market's most widely followed barometer passed the milestone in the early minutes of trading, cheers and applause rose from the floor of the New York Stock Exchange.

The stock market has been pushing higher on signs that inflation remains tame. Friday's news of slightly higher unemployment added to expectations that inflation will stay low.

King's words again ring out on eve of slaying anniversary

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — Martin Luther King Jr.'s "Mountaintop" speech rang out again Friday night at the church where he delivered his last public address 30 years ago — the night before he was assassinated.

On April 3, 1968, King told followers at the Mason Temple that they would get to the promised land, but he might not be with them.

"Like anybody, I would like to have a long life. Longevity has its place," King said in the speech, a recording of which was played Friday.

"But I am not concerned about that now. I just want to do God's will. And he has allowed me to go up the mountain. And I've looked over. And I've seen the promised land."

The memorial service was part of a weekend long Pilgrimage to Memphis, a series of seminars and other events honoring King and other champions

of the civil rights movement.

"Martin believed in this country, that black and white can live together," said Bishop Chandler Owens of the Church of God in Christ. "And I think we have come a long way toward that goal. Every step we make in that direction, we must remember the great dreamer."

King, who was in Memphis to support a strike, was killed April 4, 1968, while standing on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel.

The opening session for the pilgrimage was held at Clayborn Temple, the church where the marches for the sanitation strike began and ended.

"We saw ourselves as the liberation movement, the freedom movement, a justice movement, a movement that wanted to transform America," said the Rev. James Lawson, a close King associate.

Nuke carriers raise concerns

By Stars and Stripes

TOKYO —The arrival this summer in Japan of the Kitty Hawk, a 37-year-old aircraft carrier to replace the older Independence, is prompting a quizzical look ahead toward a potential political dilemma.

What happens when the United States runs out of these diesel-powered carriers?

So far, the Japanese government has prohibited nuclear-powered ships from deployment in Japan out of national concern over potential dangers, whether from an accident or contamination. The Navy, meanwhile, has pushed forward with its policy to build carriers propelled by nuclear power, which provides greater tactical advantages.

The Independence, the Navy's oldest active commissioned warship, is to be mothballed this summer. The Kitty Hawk and the aircraft carrier Constellation both were commissioned in 1961. The last conventionally powered carrier built was the John F. Kennedy, commissioned in 1968.

The two sides can anticipate a problem in another two decades when the JFK is expected to leave service and easy options run out.

What then? Does the Japanese government risk an unpopular stance and accept a nuclear powered carrier? Does the U.S. opt to reduce the political heat on Tokyo by building a cheaper, smaller and politically acceptable diesel-burning ship to specialize in the western Pacific?

Cohen gives Navy OK for 20 more FA/18s

WASHINGTON (AP) — Defense Secretary William Cohen cleared the way Friday for the Navy to spend \$2 billion on building another 20 FA/18E and FA/18F fighters, the service's premier strike aircraft.

The planes are built by Boeing in St. Louis.

The decision puts Cohen's imprimatur on the program, which had to overcome a flight performance problem known as "wing drop." The problem had caused the aircraft to lose lift and bank unexpectedly during certain maneuvers, but the Navy said it had addressed the problem by placing a special metal panel on the wing.

"I am confident that the Navy's modification to the FA/18E and F wing is a suitable and cost-effective solution to the wing-drop issue," Cohen said in a statement released at the Pentagon.

In February, Cohen had sent a stern signal to Boeing and the Navy, saying during testimony on Capitol Hill that he would withhold the \$2 billion if the problem couldn't be solved to his satisfaction.

"The Navy and Boeing worked diligently together to find the optimal solution, and today's decision allows the Super Hornet team to move forward with funding for the second low-rate initial production lot of airplanes," said Doug Kennett, a Boeing spokesman.

The plane is a larger and much more modern version of the FA/18C and FA/18D Hornets, which are the backbone of the Navy's carrier-based fleet. The Su-

per Hornet is billed as providing longer range, better ability to evade radar and higher performance.

Besides being able to carry a greater range of weapons, the aircraft also is able to return to the carrier without having dropped many of its bombs, giving planners greater flexibility.

The Navy expects the aircraft to form the bulk of its carrier-based air fleet by 2008.

The money for the new segment of 20 fighters was approved last year by Congress.

The Super Hornet is the largest single Pentagon procurement program in the defense budget President Clinton submitted this year to Congress.

For the next fiscal year, which begins Oct. 1, the administration is seeking \$3.3 billion for 30 more fighters.

In all, the Pentagon is planning to buy 548 of the aircraft through 2015, spending \$47 billion.

In February, Cohen told the House National Security Committee, "We will not release the next tranche of FA/18E and F (money) until I am satisfied and the department is satisfied that the wing-drop problem is corrected. If I don't have that assurance, then the program won't go forward."

The remarks were the first Cohen made publicly suggesting that he was considering a possible halt or delay in funding for the new fighter plane.

Navy test pilots first encountered the wing-drop problem in March 1996.

Marines try to polish image on Okinawa

By Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Japan — A newly formed team of community relations specialists trying to improve the Marine Corps' image and win hearts and minds of Okinawans in hopes of preventing the further loss of base land on the island.

"We really can't afford to lose more than we already have," said Col. David Rann, officer in charge of

the new Community Policy Planning and Liaison Office at Camp Foster, headquarters of the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force.

"Better than 97 percent of the land promised for return in the (December 1996 Special Action Committee on Okinawa) agreement is Marine Corps property," he said.

"We've also lost our ability to conduct artillery

practice locally. It needs to stop now — before our training begins to suffer."

Rann developed a program to shed positive light on the corps, including a 2-week-old briefing, Marines on Okinawa: Sharing the Burden.

"We figure there's really no way to win at the prefectural government level. They're stuck on their opinion, and we're stuck on ours," Rann said.

Stripes

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Upperclassmen show plebes human side

By New York Times

WEST POINT, N.Y. — They were looking forward to the handshake that would make them half-human again. For months the plebes had been counting down the time to their Recognition handshake on Recognition Day.

"It's huge," said Mike Burgwald, a first-year cadet. "I can't wait to be able to talk on the way to class."

"Very big," said Franz Doaman. "It'll be cool to stop racing through the hallways like a rat."

On Recognition Day, at approximately 18:10 hours, March 12, for the first time since the new cadets arrived last summer, the upper classes would shake their hands and call them by their first names.

From that moment on, plebes would no longer have to wear their parka hoods over their heads when they went outside or memorize the front page of The New York Times by 6 each morning. They wouldn't have to recite every item on the dinner menu verbatim or get to morning formation by 6:15, 10 minutes earlier than the rest of the corps. When they would wake at night and have to go to the bathroom — and every last one of them was looking forward to this — no longer would they have to put on a full uniform first.

"What's Recognition to me?" Vince Lee said. "Being able to wear my flip-flops to the bathroom."

Getting through West Point is no picnic even for seniors, but for first-year students here and at other service academies, life may be as close to a monastic experience as can be found anywhere in America outside the Roman Catholic Church.

A social life? "Nothing," said Robert McFarren. "Nothing at all." He had gone

to the first plebe dance last fall with hopes. "There weren't that many girls," he said. "I left early."

And it is not just males who suffer at a school where they outnumber females, 6 to 1. Rules on fraternizing are strict and so bewildering, for many, that it's not worth risking a relationship with a classmate. "If I just talk to a guy I get accused of being a big frat," said Angela Alongi. Her e-mails to her mother in Arkansas begin, "Here I am in my little gray cell. ..."

"They say we're socially retarded," said Mike Burgwald, "which is totally true. I can see that." Asked what he did for relaxation on weekends, Vince Lee said, "One of my little escapes from West Point — I sit back, smoke a cigar and pretend I'm somewhere else."

After nine months as plebes, many were still wondering if they had chosen the right life. Doaman, Burgwald, McFarren, Alongi and Lee all went through Beast basic training together and were warned by their squad leaders.

Their first Beast leader, Chris Plekenpol, a junior, wears a T-shirt that says: "Sex Kills ... Go to West Point and Live Forever." Their other Beast squad leader, Sean Scott, had predicted that when they went home for Christmas, they would be amazed by how much they had missed in the real world. First semester, they weren't even permitted stereos or radios in the room.

"When I went home," said McFarren, "my high school friends were talking about that Barbie song. It had gone up and down the charts, and I didn't know what it was."

Most studied until midnight, were up by 5:30 and still were not doing as well as they had hoped. "I'm not used to so

much work," said Richard Fox, an A student in high school with 1330 SATs, who was struggling to maintain a B. Of the 1,199 who started, 105 were gone by March 1. From their Beast squad, Franz Doaman was on academic probation for failing chemistry.

To add to their misery, most had been singled out by upperclass members for repeated hazing. Traditionally, that ended with Recognition, but there were a few upperclassmen that Richard Fox felt were so mean-spirited, he was thinking of not shaking their hands at the ceremony and telling them what he thought.

Come Recognition, Alongi was looking forward to walking the halls without getting chewed out.

"I don't venture out too far," she said. "If you're going to see somebody and you forget something, you have to go all the way there, before you can turn back to your room. It's so frustrating. You have to think ahead all the time. But — this is weird — I'm starting to see the reason for it. It makes you pay attention to detail. They constantly yell at us for not having our uniforms right. Then I woke up late one morning — I dressed in five minutes. The nagging helped."

She's also noticed her reading habits changing: "When I look at the paper now, I read the stories on Iraq, B-52 bombers, anthrax."

Most institutions that endure — and West Point, the nation's oldest service academy, will reach 200 in 2002 — appear to stay the same while constantly re-making themselves.

This happens in both small ways — for the last few years, plebes have gone to a Web site to memorize what articles are on the front page of The Times — and in ways that go to the heart of the place.

6 students challenge VMI's discipline in court

By Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Six students facing expulsion from Virginia Military Institute filed motions in federal court Friday challenging the fairness of VMI's disciplinary system and seeking to block a student panel from hearing their cases next week.

The students include three freshmen who said they were struck with a belt and the three

seniors who allegedly hit them. Because they initially denied to school investigators that the strikings took place, all six have been charged with lying, a violation of VMI's Honor Code that carries the automatic penalty of expulsion.

In a motion filed Friday in U.S. District Court in Roanoke, Va., the three freshmen said they were under pressure

to cover up the seniors' actions. In two separate motions, the seniors argued that the evidence against them is tainted because VMI student investigators dragged them from their beds and did not fully advise them of their rights.

The six students have asked the federal court to issue a temporary order blocking the VMI student Honor Court

from trying their cases until they can obtain a permanent injunction against VMI. The Honor Court trial is scheduled to begin Wednesday. A hearing on the federal court motions is set for Monday.

A VMI spokesman declined comment Friday, saying the school will respond in court.

The three seniors struck at least five freshmen with a belt on several occasions.

Government to pay claim

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — The federal government has agreed to pay \$11.3 million to settle a lawsuit brought by the families of nine newborns who were allegedly injected with a toxic painkiller at an Air Force nursery.

Many of the babies stopped breathing and turned blue. Some suffered permanent damage, including impaired speech and motor skills, gastrointestinal illness and forms of paralysis.

In 1996, their parents had won a \$27 million verdict against Maxwell Air Force Base hospital's nursery. The government appealed, then agreed to settle Wednesday.

Under terms of the deal, the money paid to six of

the families will be invested and distributed over the children's lives, meaning the deal could wind up being worth more than the \$27 million verdict, depending on how long the children live.

David Byrne III, an attorney for the families, said the deal "meets the needs of the children in terms of their future medical care, educational expenses and to compensate them for the pain and suffering they experience."

The settlement must be approved by a federal court. A hearing was scheduled for April 15.

In 1996, a federal judge ruled the Air Force acted negligently when it allowed ex-Airman Michael Beckelic — described in

court records as "mentally unstable" — to work in the hospital nursery at Maxwell in the mid-1980s.

The judge also ruled that the children's medical problems were a direct result of being injected with a toxic dose of lidocaine.

Beckelic denied doing anything improper and was never charged criminally.

Beckelic had an unpublished number in Redding, Calif., and could not be reached for comment.

Last fall, he said the government had not been contacted him about the case since 1989, when he was dishonorably discharged from the Air Force after being found guilty of abusing his wife.

Senate gives SEC chairman new term

From wire reports

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Senate confirmed Securities and Exchange Commission Chairman Arthur Levitt Jr. on Friday to head the market watchdog agency for a second five-year term.

The nomination of Levitt, 67, was approved by voice vote a day after the Senate Banking Committee unanimously supported his nomination. His current term expires in June.

Polite bank robber sentenced

ST. LOUIS — The man dubbed the polite bank robber will get 15 years to brush up on his manners.

Joseph Kivenas, who robbed seven St. Louis-area banks in October and November, was sentenced Friday to 15 years in prison and ordered to pay \$25,014. Kivenas, 38, of Brea, California, pleaded guilty in January.

He got his nickname because he often waited patiently in line, letting others cut in front of him, before robbing the teller. He never displayed a gun or injured anyone.

Kivenas was arrested Nov. 17.

Singer's kin to repay \$600,000

The parents of the slain singing sensation Selena have agreed to pay nearly \$600,000 in back taxes and penalties to settle an Internal Revenue Service lawsuit over profits from her performances.

Selena's parents, Abraham and Marcella Quintanilla, agreed to pay \$485,000 in back taxes for 1993 and 1994, and \$105,000 in fraud and negligence penalties, plus interest, in an agreement approved by the U.S. Tax Court March 24.

Princess for Jackson

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) — The King of Pop has a princess to go with his Prince. Michael Jackson's wife, Debbie Rowe Jackson, gave birth Friday to their second child, a girl.

Tobacco ready to fight back

By Los Angeles Times

ST. PAUL, Minn. — The tobacco industry, staggered by the prospect of massive new costs and regulations approved this week by a Senate committee, is threatening to launch a legal counterattack on three broad fronts.

But constitutional scholars, lawmakers and public health advocates said that the challenge is unlikely seriously to erode the sweeping bill, which cleared the Senate Commerce Committee Wednesday.

No one doubts that the industry, which is spending more than half a billion dollars a year to defend itself in lawsuits across the country, can martial a phalanx of highly skilled attorneys on its behalf.

However, Matthew Myers, a lawyer

and executive director of the National Center for Tobacco Free Kids, said that the industry counteroffensive could prove to be a "two-edged sword." He predicted that the full Senate might pile on even more cost should the industry's attack claim some of the bill's other provisions.

If the Commerce Committee bill becomes law, industry attorney J. Phil Carlton warned Commerce Chairman John McCain, R-Ariz., in a letter this week, the industry would challenge three of its major components: marketing and advertising restrictions, penalties for failure to bring down youth smoking rates and procedures for disseminating internal industry documents.

Microsoft founder faces sexual harassment charge

By Seattle Post-Intelligencer

SEATTLE — A former employee of one of Paul Allen's new companies contends in a lawsuit that the Seattle billionaire fondled her, climbed into her bed and eventually fired her for rejecting his advances.

Abbie Phillips claims she escaped Allen by locking herself in a bathroom,

according to the sexual harassment lawsuit. She says she was fired nearly 11 months later after a pattern of retaliation.

Allen, a co-founder of Microsoft, issued a blanket denial of the lawsuit, which was filed in Superior Court in Los Angeles, and pledged to fight it in court.

"Mr. Allen strongly denies all of the claims in the complaint, in particular the

claims of sexual harassment and retaliation," said a statement released by his management company.

"Mr. Allen neither sexually harassed the plaintiff (Phillips) nor terminated her employment in retaliation," the statement said. "Plaintiff resigned when she was confronted with evidence relating to her misappropriation of business funds."

Iraq passes inspectors' prime test

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — U.N. arms inspectors left Iraq today after successfully completing their first-ever survey of President Saddam Hussein's palace compounds.

Their mission was the first real test of a Feb. 23 accord between Iraq and the United Nations that defused a potential military confrontation over the palaces, which Saddam had earlier refused to open to U.N. inspectors.

"It established the precedent of access to all areas in Iraq," said Charles Duelfer, the mission's leader. "We were able to conduct all the activities that we wanted."

Some 50 arms monitors boarded buses and headed for the Iraqi air-base of Habaniya, 37 miles west of Baghdad, to fly to Bahrain. Duelfer was to meet with Iraq's Oil Minister Amer Mohammed

Rashid — also its top arms official — before leaving.

The 20 diplomats who accompanied the inspectors to the palace compounds were leaving later today.

"We had a very successful week of conducting a baseline survey of these particular locations," said Duelfer, an American.

Duelfer also is the deputy head of the United Nations Special Commission, which oversees Iraq's dismantling of weapons banned under the cease-fire that ended the 1991 Persian Gulf War. He did not rule out further palace inspections at a future date.

Iraq had long denied access to the eight presidential sites, and the United States and Britain threatened punitive air strikes if Iraq did not open them to U.N. inspectors.

Under the agreement reached on Feb. 23, Saddam committed to let arms monitors visit the presidential sites so long as a multinational group of diplomats accompanied them.

The mission, which began on March 26, will help UNSCOM "eliminate a lot of uncertainty" about Iraq's weapons capabilities, Duelfer said.

"That is vital for us in terms of accounting for the past weapons programs and also for monitoring in the future," he said.

Iraq hailed the uneventful palace inspections as a victory for truth on Friday. It said the apparent lack of weapons-related discoveries there proved that U.S. and British officials were wrong to have accused Iraq of housing plants for chemical and biological weapons at these sites.

Brazilian envoy to oversee arms ban

From wire reports

UNITED NATIONS — Brazil's U.N. ambassador was chosen Friday as head of a U.N. committee to oversee the arms embargo which the Security Council imposed on Yugoslavia this week in response to unrest in Kosovo province.

Ambassador Celso Luiz Nunes Amorim was elected during the first meeting of the Yugoslav Sanctions Committee, made up of representatives of the 15 Security Council member states.

Protestant march detoured

BELFAST, Northern Ireland — Protestants must not parade past a hostile Catholic neighborhood in Belfast, a new commission ordered Friday.

The Northern Ireland Parades Commission cast its first, potentially historic verdict as wider negotiations on the future of the British-ruled province remained deadlocked.

U.S. interests in Egypt targeted

WASHINGTON — The State Department said Friday it had received information of "undetermined reliability" that extremist groups may be planning attacks against U.S. interests in Cairo, Egypt. The announcement urged U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in Cairo to exercise greater than usual caution.

Senior North Korean official asks political asylum in Hong Kong

HONG KONG (AP) — A senior North Korean official has asked for political asylum in Hong Kong, a local newspaper reported today.

Hong Kong's Security Bureau declined comment on the report.

Apple Daily newspaper said the North Korean official, who it did not identify by name, arrived in Hong Kong Friday night from a city in China.

The newspaper said the man slipped away from the group with which he was traveling and approached a police officer at Hong Kong's Hung Hom railway station to request political asylum before passing through immigration to enter the Chinese territory.

Apple Daily said the man was taken to Hung Hom police station for questioning

late Friday and that police and the Security Branch worked through the night to confirm his identity.

North Koreans have in the past sought and been granted temporary political asylum in Hong Kong after arriving from China. North Korea shares a land border with China, a former close political ally.

The relationship between the two countries has become strained in recent years as China has pursued capitalist-style market reforms and North Korea has largely adhered to strict Stalinist principles of a state-planned economy.

North Korea has operated a trade office in Hong Kong through a local trading firm since 1996 and has sought outside investment in a free trade zone in the famine-stricken country.

U.S. steps up efforts in Cyprus

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — U.S. envoy Richard Holbrooke launched a stepped-up American bid Friday to restart talks between Greek and Turkish factions on the divided island of Cyprus.

Holbrooke, who brokered the 1995 accords that ended the Bosnian war, drove straight from Larnaca airport, on the Greek side of Cyprus, to the Turkish half for talks with Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş.

He also is to meet the Greek Cypriot leader, President Glafcos Clerides, during the three-day visit.

Earlier, the State Department's special coordinator for Cyprus, Thomas Miller, held two preparatory meetings with Denktaş, which he described as "constructive and useful."

But after a meeting late Thursday with Clerides Miller said the island had come to a "very critical point."

Lewinsky lawyer gets more food for thought

From wire reports

For weeks, some of the nation's top journalists have wooed William Ginsburg in the hopes of getting access to — and perhaps an interview with — Monica Lewinsky.

Now restaurants are getting hip. A whispered invitation here. A cordial letter there. And by the by, Ginsburg — often with Lewinsky and co-counsel Nathaniel Speights in tow — shows up for dinner because, let's face it, the guy's a total foodie.

Indeed, on a visit Thursday to The Source (where we often pick at cafeteria salads at our desk), Ginsburg whipped open his suit jacket to reveal just how well-fed he is.

In tones most reverential, he explained

that his dinner at Nathan's in Georgetown Wednesday night was so swell because he got genuine yellowfin tuna. This should not be confused with yellowtail, he said, "which is really a member of the mackerel family."

He waxed even more rhapsodic about the '85 Chateau Haut Brion that owner Carol Ross Joynt gave him from her 350-bottle cellar.

Joynt, who books guests for *Larry King Live*, had asked Ginsburg to dine at Nathan's after meeting him at a party.

Vendela proves model speaker

Tuesday was World Health Day. And to mark the occasion, Vendela — model and UNICEF spokeswoman who does not always look as if she's had enough to eat — was at the World Bank.

She'll be joined by Hillary Rodham Clinton, Ugandan Health Minister Cripus Kiyonga and bank president James

Wolfensohn in talking up ways to prevent maternal deaths.

Every year, 600,000 women die during pregnancy or childbirth, mostly in developing countries, according to the World Bank.

The Swedish-born Vendela actually has a surname: Thommessen

Kids 1, Hemp 0

About 20 Ericsson School sixth-graders were shocked to see a billboard featuring what looked like a huge marijuana leaf go up outside their school in Moline, Ill.

So they decided to write a letter to urge the advertising company to relocate the ad for a hemp-based shampoo.

Wrote the studentsto Lamar Advertising on Tuesday: "We do not expect you to censor your client's ads, but we object to the placement of this ad..."

Got an urge for the bizarre? Ease it Saturday in Florida

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla. (AP) — For sale: furniture, used, once owned by former presidential assassin. Price? Make an offer.

The furniture from Lee Harvey Oswald's Dallas apartment is among the odd assortment of items on the auction block Saturday at the Tragedy in U.S. Museum in the nation's oldest city.

Items ranging from the historic to the bizarre are available: The ambulance that took Oswald to the hospital after he was fatally wounded also is for sale, as is the 1966 Buick Electra in which actress Jayne Mansfield was killed in 1967.

But how will the items sell? Quite

well, organizers hope.

"People like tragedy. It's human nature," auction spokeswoman Charlene Brimmer said.

The collection was amassed by Buddy Hough, who died two years ago. It includes Bonnie and Clyde's getaway car — complete with bullet holes — and a white Lincoln Continental in which President Kennedy rode in Fort Worth just hours before he was shot to death by Oswald.

The museum opened in 1964. Hough got the idea for the museum after watching TV news reports of the Kennedy assassination, said Brimmer.

Lawmakers count on Dr. Seuss for support

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Green eggs and guns?

Two state senators offered their best Dr. Seuss impressions Thursday by attaching nursery school rhymes to a bill permitting Nebraska citizens a license to carry concealed weapons.

Sen. Shelley Kiel's proposed amendment reads a little like *Green Eggs and*

Ham.

"A licensee shall not carry a concealed handgun on a boat and will not, will not, with a goat," it starts. "And never when wearing an overcoat."

Not to be outdone, fellow Sen. Ernie Chambers filed another amendment to insert additional lines into Kiel's rhyme.

The amendments taken

together would continue:

"A licensee shall not carry a concealed handgun in the rain.

A licensee shall not carry a concealed handgun on a train.

Nor hide one in the crevices of a brain.

Not in the dark! Not in a tree!

Nor on land or under the sea!..."

In The Stars and Stripes

10 years ago

April 4, 1988 — Third-grader Tony Aliengena landed his plane safely at Hanscom Field in Bedford, Mass., about two hours behind schedule in his quest to become the youngest person ever to fly across the United States and back.

20 years ago

April 4, 1978 — Women who use birth control pills were warned by the Food and Drug Administration that they were running a dramatically higher risk of heart attack or stroke if they smoked.

30 years ago

April 4, 1968 — In the Wisconsin presidential primary, Sen. Eugene McCarthy, D-Minn., rode the Vietnam War issue to a clear victory over President Johnson, who had earlier announced that he would not run for another term.

40 years ago

April 4, 1958 — The Cuban Cabinet met in emergency session to draft a series of decrees to avert a rebel-threatened general strike aimed at overthrowing the government.

50 years ago

April 4, 1948 — Gen. Lucius D. Clay offered to send the wives and children of American soldiers and government employees in Berlin back to the United States at government expense whenever they wished to leave.

Tribe stock plan closer

CLEVELAND (AP) — Beer here! Peanuts here! Get your Cleveland Indians stock here!

Under an unprecedented proposal submitted by the Indians on Friday, the team could be playing in front of fans and stockholders this season.

Team owner Richard Jacobs asked permission to sell shares of the team to the public in a move that would make the once-laughable Indians the first publicly traded team in the majors.

If approved by the Securities and Exchange Commission, shares of stock would probably go as quickly as tickets and T-shirts in baseball-crazy Cleveland.

"My boyfriend will be thrilled," said Rosia Thompson, 19. "We are both Indians fans, but he has the cap, the jersey and everything. I know he will buy some, and I probably will too. They're my hometown team."

The public offering was described in reports as a way for Jacobs to raise money to buy the 1999 NFL expansion team

for Cleveland. The league has said Jacobs expressed interest in owning the team.

But the proposal filed with the SEC made no mention of using money from the stock sale to buy the Browns.

"The company's strategy is to maintain the Indians' competitive position and to increase the long-term value of the franchise," the document says.

Initially, 4 million shares of stock would be offered at a price per share of between \$14-\$16. But that could be bumped up to 4.6 million if the initial offering sells out.

If all those shares were sold, the team could come away with \$62.2 million, the document says. That's far less than the roughly \$350 million the Browns are expected to cost.

According to the filing, the Indians made a profit of \$6.8 million last year.

Jacobs, 72, whose net worth is estimated at \$450 million, would maintain the controlling interest in the Indians.

College umps get moment in spotlight

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Three St. Louis-area college umpires who filled in at the major-league level for four innings Friday night had only one regret.

"It was a great experience, but it would have been even greater to be out there when Mr. McGwire hit his home run," said Dennis "Dutch" Duncan, who manned first base. "I would do this again in a heartbeat."

The substitutes got their chance when three regular umps got stranded for several hours by weather-related problems in Atlanta. They finally showed up for work in the fifth inning, when Mark McGwire

hit his third home run in three games.

Eric Gregg, who took an earlier flight, was the only umpire who made it in time and was behind the plate. The equipment for crew chief Bruce Froemming, Larry Vanover and Mark Hirschbeck arrived at Busch Stadium about a half-hour before the game started. But when Manny Aybar threw the first pitch, those umpires still hadn't arrived.

The regulars slowly walked on the field at 8:57 p.m. CST, 1 hour and 45 minutes after the start and the subs, who also work high school games, quickly hit the showers.

Trinidad keeps IBF welterweight title

BAYAMON, Puerto Rico (AP) — With all the talk of a possible showdown with Oscar de la Hoya and his future with promoter Don King, Felix Trinidad could have easily looked past the task at hand Friday night.

His hometown fans, however, wouldn't let him.

"It didn't matter who was across the ring from me. I wanted to give my best for the people of Puerto Rico," Trinidad said after defending his IBF welterweight title by knocking out second-ranked challenger Mahenge Zulu of Zaire, 2:20 into

the fourth round.

Trinidad looked sharp in his 12th title defense, despite a layoff of more than seven months. He worked his jab during the first two rounds, methodically finding his range. By the third round he was consistently landing his left hook to the body, and by the fourth he had gone from circling Zulu to stalking him.

Trinidad's victory set up a potential showdown with WBC welterweight champion de la Hoya, whom many call the best pound-for-pound fighter in the world.

Rising water halts Texas qualifying

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — Winston Cup drivers were hoping for a sunny morning at the Texas Motor Speedway so they could finish qualifying for Sunday's Texas 500.

Only nine drivers made it around the 1½-mile oval Friday before the time trial was postponed because of water on the track. Their times will stand, and all 43 spots were to be determined today.

The moisture that crept up in turn one and caused the delay didn't come from rain. It was water collected under the surface that was sucked up by the cars zooming around the track all day.

Sunshine evaporated most of the rising water, keeping it from being a problem, but when the sun went behind the main grandstand, things went haywire.

First, Derrick Cope, the seventh qualifier, hit the wall in turn one. After Steve Grissom went through unscathed, Lake Speed wiped out in the same area as Cope.

Speed's crash was the 12th of the day among Winston Cup and Busch Grand National drivers. Only the last two were blamed on the water.

"The last two cars that ran ... it looked like there was something coming off the left rear tire," said Rusty Wallace, who was scheduled to run after Speed. "I went down and looked and there was water coming out of the race track."

Speedway general manager Eddie Gossage said water on the track became a problem for the first time in February, but was believed to have been fixed through the addition of an extensive draining system.

"We haven't seen this for a week or 10 days, and that was when we (decided to) put in the French drains," Gossage said. "We thought the French drains had resolved the issue, but I guess not."

"We absolutely hate it and regret it, but this is where we're at," Gossage said.

Part of what makes this problem so strange is that the water wasn't actually on the surface, but just below it.

Shaq, Jordan pile up points in bid for title

By The Associated Press

Michael Jordan and Shaquille O'Neal both say they are not concerned with winning the scoring title. Their performances speak otherwise.

Jordan, whose lead over O'Neal shrunk to 0.6 points following Shaq's 50-point outburst Thursday, scored 41 points Friday night as the Chicago Bulls won their 11th straight, 107-93 over the Minnesota Timberwolves.

"I think Shaquille getting 50 points last night had something to do with it," coach Phil Jackson said.

O'Neal, meanwhile, scored 26 against Cleveland on Friday as Los Angeles coasted to a 105-93 victory.

By the end of the night, Jordan's lead in the scoring race was 0.9 points as his average rose to 28.5 and O'Neal's dropped to 27.6.

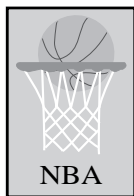
"I'm not going for the scoring title," O'Neal said. "I've already got a scoring title under my belt. I'm trying to focus on something else. Something bigger and better."

In other NBA games, Washington defeated Toronto 120-112, Utah downed Denver 97-75, Seattle clobbered Vancouver 138-98, Charlotte topped Indiana 96-89, Portland defeated Dallas 109-102, Atlanta beat Houston 107-87, Philadelphia downed the Los Angeles Clippers 93-78, Boston stunned Detroit 101-100 and Milwaukee nipped Sacramento 87-86.

Jordan became the third player in league history to reach 29,000 points as the Bulls won their 11th straight, tying the longest winning streak in the league this season.

Jordan joined Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Wilt Chamberlain as the only NBA players to score 29,000. He needed 14 points to reach the plateau.

Scottie Pippen added 18 points and Dennis Rodman grabbed 16 rebounds as the Bulls (57-17) continued their pursuit of the league's best record and homecourt advantage throughout the playoffs.



McGwire makes it 3 for 3; Diamondbacks drop another

By Associated Press

The fourth day in the NL's new season looked a lot like the first three — the Diamondbacks lost, and you-know-who hit another homer.



As expansion Arizona dropped to 0-4 in its first week, Mark McGwire homered for the third time in three games Friday night, but couldn't prevent the St. Louis Cardinals from losing their first game.

Greg Myers had three hits and matched his career-high with five RBIs, and Mark Langston won his first NL start since 1989 as San Diego beat the Cardinals 13-5 at Busch Stadium.

McGwire, who hit a grand slam on

opening day and had a three-run homer in the 12th inning of a St. Louis win on Thursday, got No. 3 with a two-run shot off Langston.

"He hits a baseball like no other human being," Padres manager Bruce Bochy said. "It takes off in a different way."

McGwire, who also walked and struck out twice, is 5-for-12 with nine RBIs, and his 390th career homer moved him ahead of Johnny Bench and into a tie with Graig Nettles for 28th place on the career list.

Elsewhere, it was San Francisco 8, Arizona 3; Chicago 6, Montreal 2; Milwaukee 7, Florida 1; Cincinnati 6, Los Angeles 3; New York 2, Pittsburgh 1; Houston 15, Colorado 2; and Atlanta 5, Philadelphia 1.

White Sox bounce back after huge loss

By The Associated Press

The Chicago White Sox rebounded from a lopsided loss with a resounding win.

Frank Thomas drove in four runs and Robin Ventura went 4-for-4 with three RBIs as the White Sox beat the Tampa Bay Devil Rays 10-4 Friday night. The previous night, Chicago was routed 20-4 by the Texas Rangers.



"It's a good win after getting embarrassed last night," Thomas said. "It would be easy to start finger-pointing. But we've got better team chemistry this year."

The White Sox had 15 hits and got a solid pitching performance from James Baldwin (1-0), who gave up only one run in six innings.

Tampa Bay's only run off Baldwin came on Bubba Trammell's homer in the second inning. The expansion team added three runs in the ninth off Todd Rizzo, who faced six batters without recording an out during the loss to the Rangers on Thursday night.

Elsewhere in the American League, it was Texas 5, Toronto 0; Baltimore 10, Detroit 2; Kansas City 9, Minnesota 5; Seattle 11, Boston 6; and Cleveland 6, Anaheim 2. The New York Yankees' game at Oakland was postponed by rain.

Devils cold as ice at worst possible time

By The Associated Press

With the playoffs a little less than three weeks away, the New Jersey Devils have suddenly gone cold. The team that appeared to be the favorite for the Stanley Cup is in the midst of its first three-game losing streak in two years.



The Ottawa Senators extended the Devils' streak Friday night by scoring three times in a 3:35 span of the third period for a 3-2 win. The loss came

just two days after Carolina beat the Devils 4-0. What makes those two results interesting is that either Ottawa or Carolina will face New Jersey in the first round of the playoffs. The Senators' desperate rally allowed them to open a four-point lead over the idle Hurricanes.

Ottawa has eight games left, one less than Carolina. Both teams split the four-game season series with New Jersey.

Elsewhere, it was Buffalo 5, Boston 4; Phoenix 6, Anaheim 3; and Edmonton 4, Dallas 1.